Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the embodiments described above are illustrative only and that other systems in the spirit of the teachings herein fall within the scope of the invention.

5   What is claimed as new is:

cache management system *pl,26-12*

pl3
l 3-4

Section A2

1. A data node at each of first and second sites in a data
    ; said cache mgmt system
    network, comprising:
    ; storage unit

    A) a cache memory device connected to the data   *pli,*
                                                                     l 7-8
        network, and
        control device
    B) a cache memory manager connected to said cache memory   *storage*   *s*
        unit
        device for controlling communications between said
        storage unit
                        control device
        cache memory device and other sites in the data

        network wherein each said cache memory manager

        controls transfers in response to one of at least two   *p*

        cache memory management methods and wherein the cache

        memory management methods used at the first and

        second sites is different.

                                                        ; control

2. A data node as recited in claim 1 wherein said cache   *pli,*
    device   *l 9-10*
    memory manager includes method storage means for storing a

    plurality of cache memory management methods and method

    selection means for selecting one of said cache memory

    management methods for controlling said cache memory device.   *s*

3. A data node as recited in claim 2 additionally including

    monitoring means for monitoring operations at said node and

    said method selection means responds to said monitoring means.

4.   A data node as recited in claim 2 wherein additionally
including means for receiving commands from other nodes and
said method selection means responds to the received commands

5.   A data node as recited in claim 5 wherein one of said
cache management methods is a least recently used cache
management method.

6.   A data node as recited in claim 5 wherein one of said
cache management methods is a data usage cache management
method.

7.   A data node as recited in claim 5 wherein one of said
cache management methods is a store-through cache management
method.

8.   A data node as recited in claim 5 wherein one of said
cache management methods is a pre-fetch cache management
method.

9.   A data node as recited in claim 5 wherein one of said
cache management methods is an indexing cache management

method.

10. A data node as recited in claim 5 wherein one of said cache management methods is a B-tree cache management method.

11. A data node as recited in claim 5 wherein one of said cache management methods is a charging cache management method.

12. A data node as recited in claim 1 wherein each of said data nodes operates with a different predetermined cache memory management method.

13. A data node as recited in claim 12 wherein said cache memory manager operates in response to a predetermined cache memory management method that is different from the cache memory management method used at the other network site.

14. A data node as recited in claim 12 wherein said cache memory manager includes method storage means for storing a plurality of cache memory management methods and method selection means for selecting one of said cache memory management methods for controlling said cache memory device.

15. A data node as recited in claim 14 wherein said method storage means stores, for selection, least recently used, data usage, store-through, pre-fetch, indexing, Btree and charge cache memory management methods.

16. A data node as recited in claim 15 additionally including monitoring means for monitoring operations at said node and (said method selection means) responds to said monitoring means.

17. A data node as recited in claim 15 wherein additionally including means for receiving commands from other nodes and (said method selection means) responds to the received commands.